

While some in Hollywood may know him as Julia Roberts' history teacher, Coach Orrell is most famous in Cobb County for his colorful history reenactments. His reenactment of the Battle of Vicksburg is legendary among his students as he crawls on his belly with imaginary rifle in hand, moving in and out of imaginary trenches. Mr. Orrell's desk has represented many ships, including the Alabama and the Bismarck. He knows how to get the very best out of every one of his students because he makes history enjoyable and memorable.

□ 2000

Mr. Orrell honed his skills at West Georgia College, where former Speaker of this House, Newt Gingrich, was his teacher. Mr. Orrell's gifts of teaching earned him two Campbell High School Teacher of the Year honors and five Star Teacher awards. He served as a social studies department head at Campbell High School for 15 years and at South Cobb High for 2.

He started teaching AP courses, advanced placement, in 1982 in the earliest days of the program and served as a successful example for the budding AP program across the State of Georgia.

As much as he loves teaching gifted students, Coach Orrell will be the first to tell us that the greatest moments of his teaching career have been helping those students in need, students that were disconnected from the school community and disillusioned with learning. He found great joy in restoring their hope and belief in the value of education. He let them know he believed in them and they had the capacity to learn and to achieve their goals.

Mr. Orrell has influenced his students and even other teachers. He leaves each school a better place to teach and learn than when he arrived. And his departure on Friday will be no different.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Members to join me in congratulating Coach Windy Orrell for his service to teaching, providing inspiration to future leaders, and helping make Cobb County a standard bearer for Georgia education.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMANN of New York). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from South Dakota?

There was no objection.

ELLSWORTH BRAC ANNOUNCEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to express my profound disappointment and flat disagreement with the Department of Defense's recommendation to close Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota as a part of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission. This recommendation is as misguided as they come.

While the BRAC process is necessary to ensure that our Armed Forces can efficiently and adequately serve our military needs at home and abroad into the 21st century, this decision does not accurately reflect the value of Ellsworth to that cause.

As Lead Wing for the Aerospace Expeditionary Force, the 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth Air Force Base played a decisive role in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. As they did in Kosovo and Afghanistan, the B-1 and her crews from Ellsworth Air Force Base performed superbly. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, B-1s played a vital role in helping liberate Iraq by dropping more than half the satellite-guided munitions. Ellsworth once again demonstrated that it is the backbone of America's bomber fleet and the base has fulfilled its missions admirably. This is a modern, well-equipped installation that has served our country for decades and is prepared to serve for decades to come. Ellsworth has substantially upgraded its infrastructure since the last round of base closures, which will allow Ellsworth to accept new missions and continue to grow. Rather than closing, Ellsworth is well situated to receive additional assignments.

In addition, Ellsworth's geographic and strategic strengths are many. Located in western South Dakota, Ellsworth is strategically positioned and is not threatened by urban encroachment or crowded air space, major factors that have not been given appropriate weight by the Department of Defense. In addition, the base is close to bomber training facilities in the region.

I am also concerned the Secretary of Defense did not adequately consider the benefits of locating military bases in rural regions. A disproportionate number of bases recommended for closure realignment resulting in a disproportionate number of lost jobs are in rural States such as Alaska, Maine, North Dakota, and South Dakota. This oversight is part and parcel of a continued disregard for not only the needs of rural America but the unique value and strengths rural America offers to our country as a whole.

Additionally, commencing a round of base closures during a time of war is questionable strategy and could be harmful to our national security. The current round of domestic base closures should wait until after the De-

partment of Defense completes its plans to bring troops back to the United States from overseas bases. I am also concerned about the risks associated with consolidating all of our B-1 bombers in a single location.

Furthermore, I am concerned that we are making base closure decisions prior to the Quadrennial Defense Review for 2005. The Quadrennial Defense Review analyzes force structure, modernization plans, military infrastructure, and the defense budget to help establish a roadmap for defense programs. It cannot be ignored before assessing base realignments and closures.

Finally, the economic impact of closing Ellsworth Air Force Base on South Dakota would be dramatic. Our State would lose our second largest employer and an estimated \$278 million a year. The loss of nearly 4,000 jobs would set South Dakota almost a year back in statewide job growth.

I have invited the chairman of the BRAC Commission, Anthony Principi, and other members of the commission to visit Ellsworth Air Force Base and hold one of their regional field hearings in Rapid City, home to Ellsworth. A visit to Ellsworth will allow the commission the opportunity to see what those of us from South Dakota already know: the B-1 bomber and Ellsworth Air Force Base are irreplaceable and crucial to our national security.

As the BRAC Commission moves forward and reviews the Department of Defense's recommendations, I am confident the BRAC Commission will realize the Department of Defense deviated substantially from their established base closure criteria when recommending Ellsworth for closure and will support removing it from the list.

THE FILIBUSTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week the Senate has returned, and I believe America's eyes will focus on whether or not this Congress has the integrity and respect for the institution to be reminded of the principles of democracy, which is that where there is a majority and a minority, a democratic nation respects the power, or at least the rights, of the minority.

We have heard this discussion about nonnuclear and nuclear and filibuster center around some suggestion that those who are opposing the elimination of such would, frankly, be considered antireligious, antipatriotic, and antidemocratic, as I listened to my good friend on the other side of the aisle even cite the Constitution to suggest that the Constitution provides the right of an up-or-down vote on Presidential judicial nominees.

The Constitution is large and small. Small in words, but large in its power. And it does say that the Senate gives